Before the Federal Communications Commission Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of
Petition for Rulemaking
By the ARRL, The National Association
For Amateur Radio

By W. Lee McVey, P.E.,

To: Chief, Public Safety and Private Wireless
Branch, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

COMMENT

The petition should be granted as proposed, based on both the facts provided by the Petitioner, and on the need for a band of frequencies that can be used for dependable, intermediate range high frequency communications in the late afternoon and evening hours for national and international public safety purposes.

Disasters such as major storm damage and earthquakes can render traditional land and satellite based communication systems unavailable either from damage or over utilization. Thus, the addition of this band could provide the means needed to assist in emergency situations.

The military, FEMA and FAA international flight control operations currently utilize frequencies very near the proposed segment, demonstrating both the reliability of this portion of the high frequency spectrum for critical, late afternoon and nighttime operations, and the possible utility of this band in the event of a regional emergency situation.

Even though operation is sought on a non-interference basis, a sub-band of 25kHz should be set aside for CW and Digital Modes and coordinated with frequencies and modes of others currently

using this band. Since these modes are incompatible with SSB voice operation, a sub-band would reduce the likelihood of interference to other services presently using this band.

Respectfully Submitted,

(electronically)

W. Lee McVey, P.E. W6EM 1301 86th Court, NW Bradenton, FL. 34209-9309 August 24, 2001